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Economic and Social Council

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New York, 6-31 July 1998
Item 1 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda

The present document contains the provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1998 in section I and the annotations to the provisional agenda in section II.

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I. Provisional agenda

The provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1998 of the Council has been drawn up on the basis of the list of items approved by the Council at its organizational session for 1998 (decision 1998/208).

Provisional agenda for the substantive session of 1998

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

High-level segment

2. Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization.

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

(a) Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development;

(b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly;

(c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme.

Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Coordinated follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance.

General segment

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits.

7. Coordination, programme and other questions:

(a) Reports of coordination bodies;

(b) Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera;

(c) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001;

(d) International cooperation in the field of informatics;

(e) Proclamation of an international year of mountains;

(f) International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000.

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B.

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations.

10. Regional cooperation.

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.

12. Non-governmental organizations.

13. Economic and environmental questions:

(a) Sustainable development;

(b) Natural resources;

(c) Energy;

(d) International cooperation in tax matters;

(e) Public administration and finance;

(f) Cartography;

(g) Population and development.

14. Social and human rights questions:

(a) Advancement of women;

(b) Social development;

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(d) Narcotic drugs;

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination;

(g) Human rights.

II. Annotations

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

At its organizational session for 1998, the Council approved the provisional agenda for its substantive session (decision 1998/208).

In accordance with rule 12 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council (E/5715/Rev.2), should any proposals be submitted for the inclusion of supplementary items in the agenda, they will be circulated as soon as they are received, and a supplementary list of items will be issued as an addendum to the provisional agenda.

A. High-level segment

2. Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization

At its resumed substantive session of 1997, the Economic and Social Council decided that the high-level segment of the substantive session of 1998 of the Council would be devoted to the consideration of the following theme: "Market access: developments since the Uruguay Round, implications, opportunities and challenges, in particular for the developing countries and the least developed among them, in the context of globalization and liberalization" (decision 1997/319).

This theme is also highly relevant to the one-day policy dialogue with the heads of financial and trade institutions, and should therefore be a main focus of that dialogue in 1998.

The Council will have before it, at its high-level segment, the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

The Council will also have before it the *World Economic and Social Survey, 1998*, prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 52/180 and Council resolution 1983/50. Part one of the *Survey* assesses the current global economic situation, including a forecast of output, international trade and other main economic variables in 1998 in the main regions of the world. It includes an analysis of current trends in global financial flows, taking account in particular of the "Asian financial crisis" a year after it began, and recommends ways and means to address the volatility of financial flows, as requested in Assembly resolution 52/180. In part two, the *Survey* examines the prospects for the continuation of and improvement in the higher growth that has been achieved in the developing and transition economies in the mid-1990s. It reviews the strengths in the recent economic performance of these countries, and identifies areas where further progress must be made. The *Survey* also includes an extensive statistical annex of economic, trade and financial indicators.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

World Economic and Social Survey, 1998

B. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(a) Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development

The high-level meeting of the operational activities segment will be devoted to the consideration of the theme "Advancement of women: implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the role of operational activities in promoting, in particular, capacity-building and resource mobilization for enhancing the participation of women in development" (decision 1997/319).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001

(b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 50/120, paragraph 53, the Council will examine the operational activities of the United Nations system with a view to ensuring the full implementation of this resolution. In paragraph 57 of that resolution, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session, through the Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of the resolution in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations.

At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the preparations of the next triennial policy review, to report to the Assembly, through the Council, on the implementation of Assembly resolution 50/120 and Council resolutions 1996/42 and 1997/59, and on the progress made and problems encountered and to make appropriate recommendations, including recommendations on authority and decision-making to the field level, establishing a more coordinated system-wide approach to monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening the coordination of regional, subregional and field-level activities of the United Nations system (resolution 1997/59).

At its fifty-second session, the Assembly reiterated its request to the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session, through the Council, a comprehensive analysis of the implementation of its resolution 50/120, as well as subsequent relevant decisions and resolutions of the Assembly and the Council, in the context of the triennial policy review, and to make appropriate recommendations (resolution 52/203).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the draft revised guidelines for the review of policies and procedures concerning technical cooperation among developing countries (E/1997/110)

(c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

The Council will have before it the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme, and the report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, including their overall financial picture, as well as the annual reports of the four funds and programmes.

At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided, in order to ensure an effective and efficient interaction between the Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the individual Executive Boards, that each Board would submit an annual report on its programmes and activities to the Council at its substantive session (resolution 48/162,

annex I, para. 29). At its substantive session of 1994, the Council requested the United Nations development funds and programmes, through their Executive Boards, to include in their annual reports to the Council, which should have a common structure: (a) a section outlining measures taken in the implementation of the provisions of the triennial policy review of operational activities; and (b) a section on the activities and measures undertaken within the designated theme for the high-level meeting of the operational activities segment (resolution 1994/33).

In accordance with paragraph 11 of annex I to General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council will also consider the overall financial picture of the funds and programmes, including the availability of resources, the priorities and programmes agreed upon in the funds and programmes and the adopted targets, and will provide further guidance on priorities and make recommendations thereon to the Assembly and the funds and programmes.

The Assembly also requested the funds and programmes, in their regular reporting on the triennial policy review to the Assembly through the Council, to include in their reports, to the extent possible and in a clearly identifiable way, actions taken to implement adopted reform measures of the Secretary-General, including an analysis of the implications of those reforms for operational activities as well as for inter-agency coordination (resolution 52/203). In addition, the Assembly requested the Council, within the same triennial policy review framework, to consider arrangements for closer integration of the governance oversight of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund and the United Nations Children's Fund, with consecutive and/or joint meetings of the existing Executive Boards of the funds and programmes (resolution 52/12 B).

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly decided to review the *composition of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme* within two years after the establishment of the Executive Board, and that the review would be conducted in parallel by the General Assembly and by the Conference of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, taking into account the relevant inputs of the Economic and Social Council and the Council of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and that its results would enter into force on 1 January 2000 (resolution 50/8).

Documentation

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its first regular session, its second regular session and its annual session

Annual report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its first regular session and its annual session

Annual report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 1998 sessions

Annual report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme

Report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, including their financial picture

C. Coordination segment

4. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: Coordinated follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

In accordance with Council decision 1997/319, the Coordination segment will be devoted to the consideration of the following cross-sectoral theme: "Coordinated follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action".

In its resolution 1996/78, the Commission on Human Rights recommended that the Council consider devoting the coordination segment of its substantive session of 1998 to that question. In its decision 1996/283, the Council endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Human Rights. The Assembly, in its resolutions 51/118 and 52/148, welcomed and supported that decision of the Council.

At the coordination segment of the Council of 1995, devoted to coordinated follow-up by the United Nations system and implementation of the results of the major international conferences organized by the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields, the Council decided that it would ensure the harmonization and coordination of the agendas and work programmes of the functional commissions by promoting clear division of labour among them and providing clear policy guidance to them (thirteenth paragraph of agreed conclusions 1995/1). At its substantive session of 1997, the Council stressed the need to further promote integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major conferences, and reaffirmed the need to continue to ensure harmonization and coordination of the agenda and work programmes of the functional commissions (resolution 1997/61).

For its consideration of this theme, the Council will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the subject.

The Council will also have before it the report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fourth session in accordance with Assembly resolutions 52/97 and 52/98, in which the Assembly invited the Council and the Commission on Human Rights, at their sessions in 1998, to address the protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women migrant workers as well as trafficking in women and girls in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Documentation for information

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fourth session

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly decided to establish a humanitarian affairs segment of the Council with effect from 1998 (resolution 52/12 B).

At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly requested the emergency relief coordinator to prepare an annual report for the Secretary-General on the *coordination of humanitarian*

emergency assistance of the United Nations, including information on the central emergency revolving fund, to be submitted to the Assembly through the Council (resolution 46/182, annex, para. 35 (i)). At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested that a more comprehensive report on humanitarian assistance be submitted to it at a subsequent session (decision 1997/218). At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-third session, through the Council, on the further progress by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee in the strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations in humanitarian assistance (resolution 52/168).

In accordance with Council resolution 1983/46, the Secretary-General apprises the Council annually on the status of the assistance to the drought-stricken areas of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, the Sudan and Uganda.

At its organizational session for 1998, the Council decided that *practical arrangements for the humanitarian affairs segment*, as requested by the Assembly in its resolution 52/12 B, should be the subject of consideration by the Council and should be part of the review of its organization and methods of work, taking into account the experience gained at its 1998 substantive session, and the impact that holding the segment during the substantive session would have on the effectiveness of the work of the session as a whole (decision 1998/205) (see also item 8).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations

E. General segment

6. Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/264, the Council will have before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system and on freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation.

At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in cooperation with organizations of the United Nations system, to submit to it an annual report on the progress achieved by the United Nations system at the intergovernmental, inter-agency and country levels, with specific recommendations on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation and follow-up of the major United Nations conferences and summits (resolution 1997/61).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on ways to enhance the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Council on mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes of the United Nations system

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1997 coordination segment of the Council on freshwater, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation

7. **Coordination, programme and other questions**

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

The report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the first part of its thirty-eighth session (Headquarters, June-July 1998) will include the Committee's views on its consideration of the report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination.

The Administrative Committee on Coordination will submit an annual overview report to the Council (Council resolution 13 (III)), which will provide the Council with a summary of the work carried out by the Administrative Committee on Coordination machinery in 1997.

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the first part of its thirty-eighth session

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997

(b) Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

At its substantive session of 1995, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its substantive session of 1998 the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the implementation of the strategies and work plans presented to the Council at its substantive session of 1995, to be prepared in collaboration with the other relevant organizations, organs, bodies and programmes of the United Nations system (resolution 1995/63).

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization

(c) Proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

The Council will have before it the revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001 covering activities in the economic, social and related fields. The Council will examine the revisions in the light of the recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the matter (resolution 1988/77).

Documentation

Relevant chapters of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2001

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the first part of its thirty-eighth session

(d) International cooperation in the field of informatics

At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the President of the Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year for the

due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item and for facilitating the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology, and also requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its substantive session of 1998 on the follow-up action taken on the resolution, including the findings of the Working Group (resolution 1997/1).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Proclamation of an international year of mountains

At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Governments and relevant international, regional and non-governmental organizations, to submit to it at its substantive session of 1998, a report on the desirability of proclaiming an international year of mountains and on other ways and means of ensuring the sustainable development of mountain countries (resolution 1997/45).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) International Year for the Culture of Peace, 2000

As recommended by the Council at its substantive session of 1997, the General Assembly, in its resolution 52/15, proclaimed the year 2000 as the International Year for the Culture of Peace. The Council recommended that the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization be designated as the focal point for the Year and that it submit to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 a report on the state of preparations for the Year to enable the Council to make appropriate proposals to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session (resolution 1997/47).

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

At its resumed substantive session of 1997, the Council decided to continue its consideration of this item and to continue the review of subsidiary bodies of the Council as mandated by the General Assembly in resolution 50/227 and subsequent resolutions, and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on this question to the Council for consideration at its substantive session of 1998 (decision 1997/322).

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly invited the Council to consider, at its organizational and substantive sessions in 1998, the recommendations of the Secretary-General relating to the reform of its subsidiary bodies, including a time-frame for implementation of its decisions thereon, as well as his recommendations relating to the organization and methods of work of the Council, and to report thereon to the Assembly as early as possible during its fifty-second session. The Assembly also invited the Council to conduct a general review of the regional commissions at its substantive session of 1998 in order to consider the competencies of the regional commissions and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly before the end of its fifty-second session (resolution 52/12 B). At its organizational session of 1998, the Council decided to consider the review and reform of the regional commissions under the item entitled "Regional cooperation", on the understanding that the topic would also be considered in conjunction with the item entitled "Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B" (decision 1998/201) (see also item 10).

The Council will also have before it the report of the joint United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions review as mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 50/227, annex I., paragraph 88. The joint United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions meeting will be held in New York on 18 April 1998.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12 B

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint United Nations/Bretton Woods institutions review

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Assistance to the Palestinian people. At its sixty-third session, in 1977, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to it annual reports on the question of assistance to the Palestinian people (resolution 2100 (LXIII)).

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to it at its fifty-third session, through the Council, on the implementation of Assembly resolution 52/170 on the subject.

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and to report thereon to the Council; it requested the Secretary-General to follow the implementation of the resolution and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 (resolution 1997/66). At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the Assembly (resolution 52/73).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

10. Regional cooperation

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation and take the necessary action on the decisions and recommendations of the regional commissions contained therein.

The Council will also have before it the *summaries of the surveys of regional economic and social conditions* prepared by the regional commissions, highlighting the main problems and prospects of those regions. At its first regular session of 1979, the Council decided to discontinue the submission to it of the reports of the regional commissions (decision 1979/1). The reports are transmitted directly to all Member States. The Secretary-General, in his *annual report on regional cooperation*, in addition to reporting on the meetings of the executive secretaries, highlights developments within each region and draws the Council's attention to specific issues requiring its consideration. The report of the Secretary-General will bring to the Council's attention any decisions or recommendations of the Commissions that statutorily require approval by the Council. A section of the report will deal with the question of *review and reform of the regional commissions* (Council decision 1998/201) (see also item 8).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 1997

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1997

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 1998

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1997

Summary of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 1997

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the resolution and to continue to include, in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories, an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations (resolution 1997/67). The attention of the Council is drawn to Assembly resolution 52/207 on the subject.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

12. Non-governmental organizations

Pursuant to its resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31, the Council will consider the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on the work of its 1998 session (New York, 18-29 May and 22-26 June 1998) and take action on the recommendations contained therein. The provisional agenda of the 1998 session of the Committee was approved by the Council in its decision 1998/204. At its substantive session of 1995, the Council decided that the Committee should meet annually (decision 1995/304). It also decided to increase, on the basis of equitable geographical representation, the current membership of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations and to implement that decision after the completion of the current review. At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the

Committee to present its views on the enlargement of its membership and decided to take a decision on this matter in 1998 (resolution 1997/57).

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

13. Economic and environmental questions

For the consideration of this item, the Council will have before it the relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies, in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, paragraph 68.

(a) Sustainable development

The Council will have before it the report of the *Commission on Sustainable Development* on its sixth session (New York, 20 April-1 May 1998). The provisional agenda for the sixth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its resolution 1997/63.

At its thirty-ninth session, the General Assembly adopted *guidelines for consumer protection* (resolution 39/248). At its substantive session of 1997, the Council requested the Secretary-General to convene an interregional expert group meeting to elaborate specific recommendations for guidelines for sustainable consumption patterns for submission to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 through the Commission on Sustainable Development at its sixth session. The Council also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Council at its substantive session of 1998 on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 1997/53).

The Council will also have before it the report of the *Committee for Development Planning* on the work of its thirty-second session.

At its fifty-first session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report based on the views of relevant experts on the *development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States*, and requested the Committee for Development Planning, at its thirty-second session, to formulate its views and recommendations on the above-mentioned report in order to submit those views to the Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Council, and to make this information available to the Commission on Sustainable Development (resolution 51/183).

Protection against products harmful to health and the environment. The question of the exchange of information on banned hazardous chemicals and unsafe pharmaceutical products has been considered by the General Assembly since its thirty-fourth session, in 1979 (resolution 34/173). In resolution 39/229, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, through the Council, to inform the Assembly every three years about the implementation of that resolution and of Assembly resolutions 37/137 and 38/149. These resolutions form the mandate for the issuance of regular updates of the *Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale Have Been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or not Approved by Governments*. They also address the need to keep the format of the List under continuing review, in cooperation with the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, with a view to its improvement, taking into account its complementary nature, the experience obtained and the views expressed by Governments. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General, in the context of the preparation of his next scheduled report on the question, to make specific suggestions on ways and means of providing technical cooperation, including through

appropriate United Nations organizations, to countries, in particular developing countries, to create and strengthen their capacity to utilize the Consolidated List; and to study all the pending issues, such as sustainable alternatives to banned and severely restricted products and unregistered pesticides, with a focus on improving the usefulness of the Consolidated List (Assembly resolution 44/226, sect. II).

The Council last considered this topic at its substantive session of 1995 (see decision 1995/234).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixth session (E/1998/29)

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-second session (E/1998/34)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1997/53 on consumer protection

Report of the Secretary-General on the development of a vulnerability index for small island developing States (A/53/65-E/1998/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment

(b) Natural resources

The Council will consider the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session. The provisional agenda and documentation for the fourth session* of the Committee were approved by the Council in its decision 1996/306.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session*

(c) Energy

The Council will consider the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its third session.** The provisional agenda and documentation for the third session of the Committee were approved by the Council in its decision 1996/304.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its third session**

(d) International cooperation in tax matters

The Secretary-General reports to the Council on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters following each meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Council resolution 1980/13). The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the eighth meeting of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts (Geneva, 15-19 December 1997).

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* The fourth session of the Committee on Natural Resources has been postponed until further notice

** The third session of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development has been postponed until further notice

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its eighth meeting

(e) Public administration and finance

At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly recommended that the Secretary-General take appropriate measures in order to ensure maximum coordination of activities of the United Nations system in the field of public administration and development; called upon the Secretary-General to ensure ways of strengthening the coordination, coherence and harmonization of the management and implementation of the operational activities of the United Nations system in this field; and requested him to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, through the Council, a report on the subject containing information on the implementation of the resolution (resolution 50/225).

In accordance with Council decision 1997/222, the Council will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (New York, 4-12 May 1998), which will review the progress made in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/225.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on public administration and finance

Report of Secretary-General on the Fourteenth Meeting of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance

(f) Cartography

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (New York, 12-22 January 1998) (decision 1997/213).

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names

(g) Population and development

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Population and Development on the work of its thirty-first session (New York, 23-27 February 1998). The provisional agenda for the thirty-first session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 1997/220.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirty-first session (E/1998/25)

14. Social and human rights questions

For the consideration of this item, the Council will have before it the relevant sections of the document prepared by the Secretariat containing a consolidation of conclusions and

recommendations of subsidiary bodies, in accordance with Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, paragraph 68.

(a) Advancement of women

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex). The Convention entered into force on 3 September 1981. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was established under article 17 of the Convention for the purpose of considering the progress made in the implementation of the Convention. Under article 21 of the Convention, the Committee shall report annually on its activities to the General Assembly through the Council and may make suggestions and general recommendations based on the examination of reports and information received from the States parties to the Convention.

The Council will also have before it the report of the *Commission on the Status of Women* on its forty-second session (New York, 2-13 March 1998). The provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 1997/229.

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly decided to convene, in the year 2000, *a high-level plenary review to appraise and assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and the Beijing Platform for Action*, and requested the Secretary-General to explore in a report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session the possibility, among other options, of convening the review (a) at the start of the fifty-fifth session of the Assembly, (b) within the framework of the proposed millennium Assembly, if agreed upon by the General Assembly, (c) following the annual session of the Commission on the Status of Women, or (d) as a special session of the General Assembly. That report has been issued under the symbol A/52/789. The Assembly decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would serve as the preparatory committee for the high-level review, and requested the Commission to consider at its forty-second session the report of the Secretary-General mentioned above, thus enabling the Assembly, through the Council, to decide on this issue at its fifty-second session or as soon as possible thereafter (resolution 52/100).

In its resolution 52/100, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly, the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council on *follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*.

At its substantive session of 1996, the Council endorsed the *revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001*, and decided to undertake, in 1998, a comprehensive mid-term review of the implementation of the revised plan as a basis for future programming and coordination of activities for the advancement and empowerment of women by the United Nations system, including a review of the progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in all activities of the United Nations system. It requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Council, through the Commission at its forty-second session, a progress report on the implementation of the revised plan (resolution 1996/34).

The Council will also have before it the report of the *Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women* on its eighteenth session (Santo Domingo, 27 April-1 May 1998). The Institute functions under the authority of a Board of Trustees, which reports annually to the Council.

Documentation

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-second session (E/1998/27)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

(b) Social development

The Council will have before it the report of the *Commission for Social Development* on its thirty-sixth session (New York, 10-20 February 1998). The provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 1997/230.

Preparations for the special session of the General Assembly in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. In resolution 50/161, the General Assembly decided to hold a special session in 2000 for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development. At its fifty-second session, the Assembly decided to establish a Preparatory Committee, and reaffirmed that the Preparatory Committee would initiate its substantive activities in 1999 on the basis of input by the Commission for Social Development and the Economic and Social Council (resolution 52/25).

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-sixth session (E/1998/26)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

The Council will have before it the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session (Vienna, 21-30 April 1998). The provisional agenda for the seventh session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 1997/232.

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Commission, at its seventh session, to finalize the *programme for the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders* and to make final recommendations, through the Economic and Social Council, to the Assembly (resolution 52/91).

In its resolution 52/85, the Assembly also requested the Commission to continue its review of the *implementation of the Naples Political Declaration and Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime* as a matter of high priority and to report through the Council to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session (E/1998/30)

(d) Narcotic drugs

The Council will have before it the report of the *Commission on Narcotic Drugs* on its forty-first session (Vienna, 11-13 March 1998). The provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission was approved by the Council in its decision 1997/233.

Implementation of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly requested that the System-Wide Action Plan be reviewed and updated on a biennial basis (resolution 48/112, sect. IV, para. 10).

Report of the *International Narcotics Control Board.* In accordance with article 15, paragraph 1, of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, article 18, paragraph 1, of the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances, and article 23, paragraph 1, of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, the Board will report to the Council, through the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on its work for 1997.

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-first session (E/1998/28)

Report of the Secretary-General on the biennial update of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 1997

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports annually to the General Assembly through the Council, in conformity with paragraph 11 of the Statute of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Assembly resolution 428 (V), annex).

At its fifty-first session, in 1971, the Council decided that the report of the High Commissioner should be transmitted to the General Assembly without debate, unless the Council decided otherwise, at the specific request of one or more of its members or of the High Commissioner, at the time of the adoption of its agenda (resolution 1623 (LI), sect. II).

At its fifty-second session, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive and consolidated report on the *situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa* to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session, and to submit an oral report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1998 (resolution 52/101).

Documentation

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(f) Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

The Council will consider the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), as requested by the General Assembly in its resolution 48/91, paragraph 16. In that resolution, the Assembly proclaimed the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination, beginning in 1993, and adopted the Programme of Action for the Decade contained in the annex to the resolution. The Assembly entrusted the Council and the

Commission on Human Rights, in cooperation with the Secretary-General, with the responsibility for coordinating the programmes and evaluating the activities undertaken in connection with the Decade and requested the Secretary-General to submit each year to the Council a detailed report on all activities of United Nations bodies and the specialized agencies, analysing the information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination.

The attention of the Council is drawn to General Assembly resolution 52/111.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

(g) Human rights

The Council will have before it the report of the *Commission on Human Rights* on its fifty-fourth session (Geneva, 16 March-24 April 1998). The report of the Commission is expected to include its response to the following resolutions:

(i) General Assembly resolution 52/97, in which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights at their sessions in 1998 to address the *protection and promotion of the rights and welfare of women migrant workers* in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(ii) General Assembly resolution 52/98, in which the Assembly invited the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on Human Rights, at their sessions in 1998, to address *trafficking in women and girls* in connection with the five-year review of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(iii) General Assembly resolution 52/136, in which the Assembly called upon the Commission on Human Rights to consider carefully the report of the second session of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts to elaborate a strategy for the implementation and promotion of the *right to development*, and to continue to make proposals to the General Assembly, through the Economic and Social Council, on the future course of action on the question;

(iv) General Assembly resolution 52/145, in which the Assembly decided to keep the *situation of human rights in Afghanistan* under consideration at its fifty-third session, in the light of additional elements provided by the Commission on Human Rights and the Economic and Social Council.

The Council will also have before it the general comments of the *Human Rights Committee*. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 23 March 1976. In accordance with article 45 of the Covenant, the Human Rights Committee reports annually on its activities to the Assembly through the Council.

It will be recalled that, at its organizational session for 1983, the Council invited the Human Rights Committee to consider the possibility of rescheduling its meetings so that its report could be submitted to the General Assembly through the Council (decision 1983/101). At its organizational session for 1985, the Council agreed to the interim arrangement proposed by the Human Rights Committee, namely, that the Committee would transmit to the Council,

on a regular basis, the text of the general comments adopted by the Committee in accordance with article 40, paragraph 4, of the Covenant; and, without prejudice to further consideration of the present arrangements at a future session, the Council decided to authorize the Secretary-General to transmit the annual report of the Human Rights Committee directly to the Assembly (decision 1985/105).

The Council will have before it the reports of the *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights* on its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions (Geneva, 28 April-16 May 1997 and 8-12 December 1997). The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights was entrusted by the Council, as from 1987, with overseeing the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolution 1985/17). It will be recalled that the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex) entered into force on 3 January 1976. Under article 16 of the Covenant, States parties to the Covenant undertake to submit to the Secretary-General reports on the measures that they have adopted and on the progress made in achieving the observance of the rights recognized in the Covenant. The Secretary-General is required to transmit copies of the reports to the Council for its consideration.

Committee on the Rights of the Child. At its forty-fourth session, the General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex). In accordance with article 43 of the Convention, the Committee on the Rights of the Child was established, for the purpose of examining the progress made by States parties in achieving the realization of the obligations undertaken in the Convention. In accordance with article 44 of the Convention, the Committee submits reports on its activities to the Assembly, through the Council, every two years.

The Council will also have before it the report of the *United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*. At its forty-eighth session, the General Assembly decided to create the post of United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; it also decided, *inter alia*, that the High Commissioner would be the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities under the direction and authority of the Secretary-General. The Assembly requested the High Commissioner to report annually on his/her activities, in accordance with his/her mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Council, to the Assembly (resolution 48/141).

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fourth session (E/1998/23)

Report of the Human Rights Committee

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its sixteenth and seventeenth sessions (E/1998/22)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (see item 4)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies